

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 175756
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK: IW

APPROVED BY: AF/W: TWMSMITH

-----107785 280944Z /23

R 271827Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMCONSUL DOUALA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

UNCLAS STATE 175756

FOLLOWING REPEAT COTONOU 1201 ACTION ABIDJAN ACCRA IBADAN LAGOS
LOME OUAGADOUGOU NIAMEY INFO SECSTATE JULY 25.

QUOTE UNCLAS COTONOU 1201

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CASC, DM

SUBJECT: PHOTOGRAPHY IN BENIN

1. TODAY WE HAD AN AMERICAN CITIZEN ARRESTED FOR TAKING
PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE PORT AREA OF COTONOU. FORTUNATELY, THANKS
TO THE IMMEDIATE INTERCESSION OF OUR CONSUL AND UNEXPECTEDLY
COOPERATIVE ATTITUDES ON THE PART OF THE BENINESE AUTHORITIES,
HIS RELEASE WAS OBTAINED. BASED ON PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH
THE LOCAL BUREAUCRACY AND THE NEED FOR MINISTERIAL REVIEW OF
EACH CASE, WE HAD FEARED THAT WE COULD NOT SECURE THE CITIZEN'S
RELEASE FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

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2. WE BELIEVE NEIGHBORING POSTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO DISCOURAGE
TRAVELERS WITHOUT SPECIFIC BUSINESS HERE FROM COMING TO BENIN.
THOSE WHO INSIST SHOULD BE WARNED TO BE PARTICULARLY CAREFUL
IN TAKING PICTURES WITHOUT THE OFFICIAL AUTHORIZATION OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN. THE ONLY SAFE PLACE
FOR PHOTOGRAPHS IS THE LAGOON VILLAGE OF GANVIE. TAKING PICTURES
ELSEWHERE MAY LEAD TO DETENTION. FYI: INDIVIDUAL HAD STOPPED AT

ANOTHER EMBASSY ENROUTE AND HAD NOT BEEN TOLD OF
SITUATION. MANY THANKS.
THOMPSON UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PHOTOGRAPHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770270-0433
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770713/aaaaakqs.tel
Line Count: 65
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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TAGS: CASC, DM
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